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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/758,386

01/15/2004

Memphis-Zhihong Yin

200312164-1

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07/26/2006

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EXAMINER

WRIGHT, INGRID D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/758,386

Applicant(s)

YIN ET AL.

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/15/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☒ Other: 3 Attachments.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. Claim 3 recites the limitation "the port connector apparatus" in line 2 of claim 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 4 recites the limitation "the port connector apparatus" in line 3 & 4 of claim 4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,3-8 & 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in view of Chen US 6093038. Note: See attached fig. 1 & 6 of Goff for elements representing claimed limitations in the instant application.

With respect to claim 1, Goff teaches a computer system (see, Abstract of Goff), comprising: a sidewall (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) having an aperture (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) therethrough; and a connector apparatus (14) disposed to pass at least partially through the aperture, able to be positioned in a retracted position (see, notation on attached fig. 6 of Goff) to conceal at least one of the connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) inside the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff) and in an extended position (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) in which at least one of the connectors is accessible outside of the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff); and wherein in the

retracted position only an outer face (see, notation on attached fig. of Goff) of the connector apparatus (14) is exposed there through the aperture (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff), but is silent as to a multi-connector apparatus.

Although, Goff teaches a connector apparatus and not a multi connector, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate the a second connector apparatus of Goff, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10) comprising a plurality of connectors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the connector tray of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripheral devices connected to a notebook or desktop computer.

With respect to claim 3, as best understood, Goff teaches a computer system (see, Abstract of Goff) comprising a housing (19) having a top side (22) and a sidewall (see, sidewall of (19) of Goff) and a port connector apparatus (14), having a port connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) parallel to the top side and adapted to receive a mating connector (16) in a direction substantially parallel to the sidewall, when in an extended position (see, notation on attached fig. 6 of Goff), and having only an outer face (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff).

With respect to claim 4, as best understood, Goff teaches the sidewall (see, sidewall of (19) of Goff), which has an aperture (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) and the port connector apparatus (14),

which includes an extension/retraction mechanism (40,42,43) that enables the port connector apparatus (14) to be extended and retracted through the aperture (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff).

With respect to claim 5, Goff teaches a housing means (19) having an aperture (28) and a means for changing (30) a port connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) exposed outside of the housing means (19) and wherein the changing means enables a port connectors to move back and forth through the aperture (28) and a changing means (30) is mounted in the housing (19) and not fully detachable, but is silent as to a plurality of connectors.

Although, Goff teaches a connector apparatus and not a multi connector, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate an additional connector apparatus of Goff, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections.

Chen et al. teaches a changing means (10), which is not fully detachable a housing means (see back opening on case (20) of Chen et al.), whereby an electrical connector (101) on the changing means is electrically connected to a main board (202) via wires (30).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the changing means of Chen et al. in the invention of Goff, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripherals connected to a notebook or desktop computer.

With respect to claim 6, Goff teaches a means for holding (40,42,43) the port connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) in a retracted position relative to the housing (19) and a means for releasing (40,42,43) the port connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) from the retracted position relative

Art Unit: 2835

to the housing (19).

With respect to claim 7, Goff teaches a housing (19) and a connector tray (see, tray of connector apparatus (14)) connected to the housing (19) and having a port connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) and wherein a port connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) is accessible when the connector tray is extended at least partially outside the housing (19) than when the tray (see, tray of connector apparatus (14) of Goff) is retracted within the housing (19), but is silent as to port connectors.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10) comprising multi-port connectors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the connector tray of Chen et al. in the invention of Goff, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripheral devices connected to a notebook or desktop computer.

With respect to claim 8, Goff teaches a connector tray (see, tray of connector apparatus (14)), a port connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) disposed in the second portion (38) of the connector tray and an extension/retraction mechanism (40,43,43) that locks the first and second portions (98,38) in a retracted position until released therefrom and enables the released first and second portion to extend to an extended position, but is silent as to a pivot.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 2) a second portion (see, notation on attached fig. 2 of Chen et al.) that is pivotable to a first portion (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Chen et al.).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to connect a second portion of Chen et al. in the invention of Goff, in order to provide a movable connector board which can enable a user to easily connect or disconnect peripheral devices without rotating or moving the computer.

Regarding the method claims 11-13, the method steps recited in the claims are inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by Goff & Chen et al. Goff & Chen et al. disclosed a computer system (see, Abstract of Goff) with a multiple-connector tray (10) with first and second portions in a retracted position relative to a housing (19) of the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff), the multiple-connector tray (10) having at least one connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) in the second portion (38) inaccessible in the retracted position; extending the multiple-connector tray (10) to an extended position relative to the housing (19) to expose the second portion and pivoting the second portion relative to the first portion to render the connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) is accessible.

With respect to claim 14, Goff teaches a retractable connector apparatus (14) that is mounted inside an aperture (see, notation on attached fig. 6 of Goff) of the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff) and partially detachable from the computer system (via an element (12)) and not detachable from the housing (19), but is silent as to a multi-connector apparatus and not detachable from the computer system.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10) or multi connector apparatus, comprising multi-connectors not detachable from a computer system.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to utilize the connector tray of Chen et al. in the invention of Goff, in order to provide a user friendly connector board

Art Unit: 2835

for a notebook or desktop computer, by allowing a user to easily connect peripheral devices to a computer and thereby increase the convenience of usage of the computer

With respect to claim 15, Goff teaches the retractable connector apparatus (14) is integrated with housing (19).

With respect to claim 16, Goff teaches the connector apparatus (14) retracts entirely into the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff), but is silent as to a multi-connector apparatus.

Although, Goff teaches a connector apparatus and not a multi connector, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate the a second connector apparatus of Goff, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10) comprising a plurality of connectors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the connector tray of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripheral devices connected to a notebook or desktop computer.

With respect to claim 17, Goff teaches a housing (19) wherein the retractable connector apparatus (14) retracts within the housing (19) to a position at which a remote side of the retractable connector apparatus is flush with a wall of the housing (19).



Although, Goff teaches a connector apparatus and not a multi connector, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate the a second connector apparatus of Goff, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10) comprising a plurality of connectors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the connector tray of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripheral devices connected to a notebook or desktop computer.

With respect to claim 18, Goff teaches a housing (19) and a retractable multiple-connector apparatus (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff), extended from the housing (19), but is silent as to a pivot and multi-connectors.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 2) a second portion (see, notation on attached fig. 2 of Chen et al.), which is pivotable to a first portion and multi connectors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the pivotable second portion and add additional connectors of Chen et al. in the invention of Goff, in order to provide a movable connector board which can enable a user to easily connect or disconnect peripheral devices without rotating or moving the computer.

Art Unit: 2835

With respect to claim 19, Chen et al. teaches a second portion (see, notation on attached fig. 2 of Chen et al.) of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (10) that pivots to an extended rather than a vertical position, relative to a housing (see, back of opening of case (20)).

With respect to claim 20, Goff teaches the retractable connector apparatus (14), further comprises a connector (see, notation on attached fig. 1 of Goff) accessible from a side away from the housing (19) of the computer system (see, Abstract of Goff), but is silent as to multi connectors.

Although, Goff teaches a connector apparatus and not a multi connector, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to duplicate the a second connector apparatus of Goff, in order to provide an enhanced connector capable of multi connections.

Chen et al. teaches (see, fig. 5) a non-removable connector tray (10) comprising a plurality of connectors.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the connector tray of Chen et al. in the invention of Glad, in order to provide an electrical connection for peripheral devices connected to a notebook or desktop computer.

3. Claims 2 & 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in of Chen US 6093038, further in view of Garside US 5971777. Note: See attached fig. 6 of Garside for elements representing claimed limitations in the instant application.

With respect to claim 2, in regards to all the limitations of claim 1 above, Goff as modified by Chen et al., is silent as to a push-push mechanism.

Garside teaches a push-push mechanism (see, notation on attached fig. 5 of Garside) for a connector apparatus (26), for coupling with a physical/electrical medial plug.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the push-push mechanism as taught by Garside over the push-pull mechanism of Goff as modified by Chen et al., in order to provide an alternate equivalent means of positioning the connector of Goff in a retracted and an extended position.

With respect to claim 9, in regards to all the limitations of claim 7 above, Goff as modified by Chen et al., is silent as to a push-push mechanism.

Garside teaches the extension/retraction mechanism () comprises a push-push mechanism (see, notation on attached fig. 5 of Garside).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the push-push mechanism as taught by Garside over the push-pull mechanism of Goff as modified by Chen et al., in order to provide an alternate equivalent means of positioning the connector of Goff in a retracted and an extended position.

4. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goff US 6033240 in view of Chen et al. US 6093038, further in view of Machado et al. US 6848943 B3.

With respect to claim 10, in regards to all the limitations of claim 7 above, Goff as modified by Chen et al., teaches an extension/retraction mechanism (40,42,43), but is silent as to a button.

Machado et al. teaches a button (see, col. 13, lines 64-67 & col. 14, lines 1-6 of Machado et al., for permitting removal of a connector (280) from an interior housing comprising a shielding member (283).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the button of Machado et al., in the invention of Goff as modified by Chen et al., in order to provide an alternate equivalent means of insertion/removal of the connector (of Goff) within the computer housing of Goff.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed on 6/20/06, regarding claims 1-20, have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground (s) of rejection.

#### ***Conclusion***

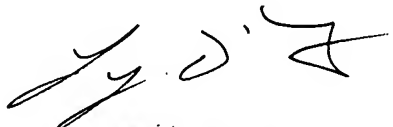
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Okada et al. US 5667395 shows the general state of the art regarding retractable connectors.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571)272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571)272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

IDW



LYNN FEILD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

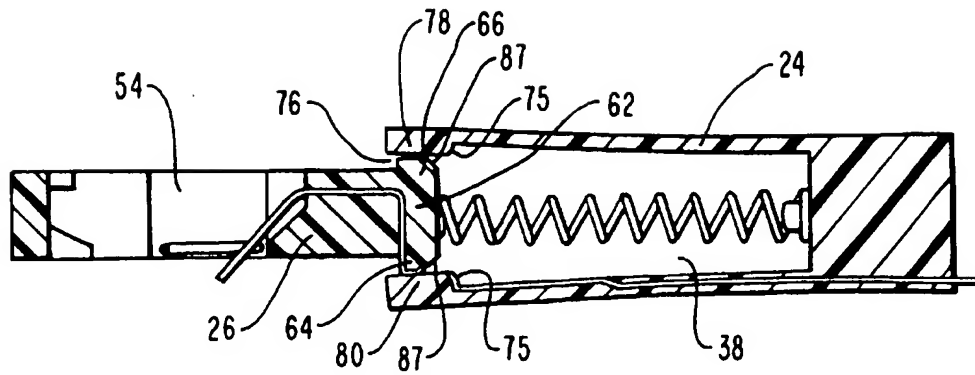


FIG. 5

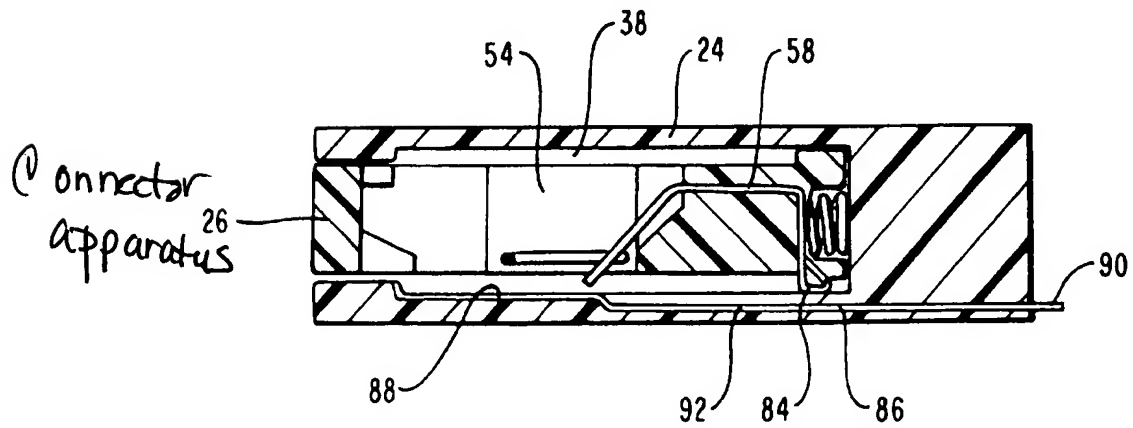
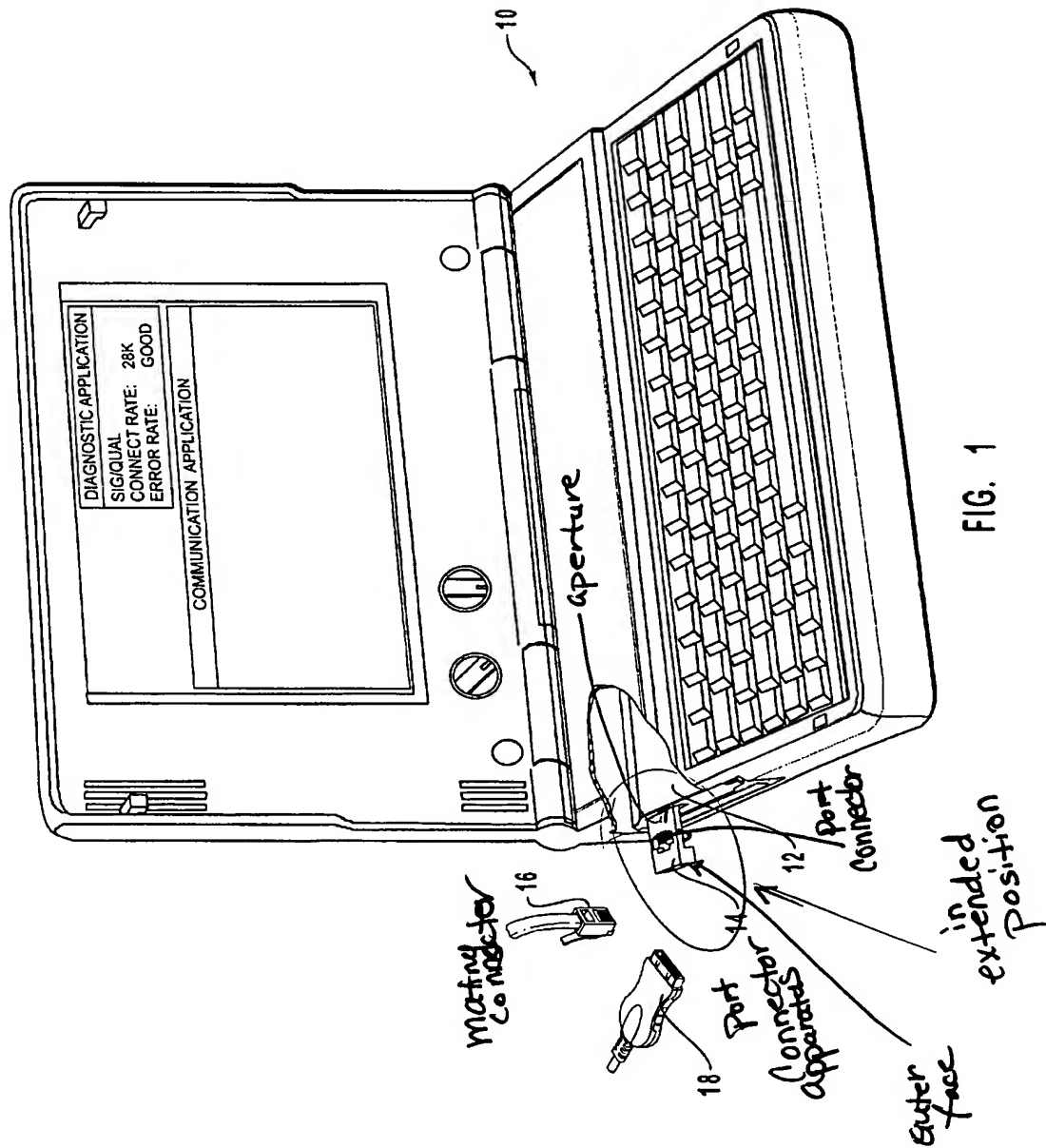
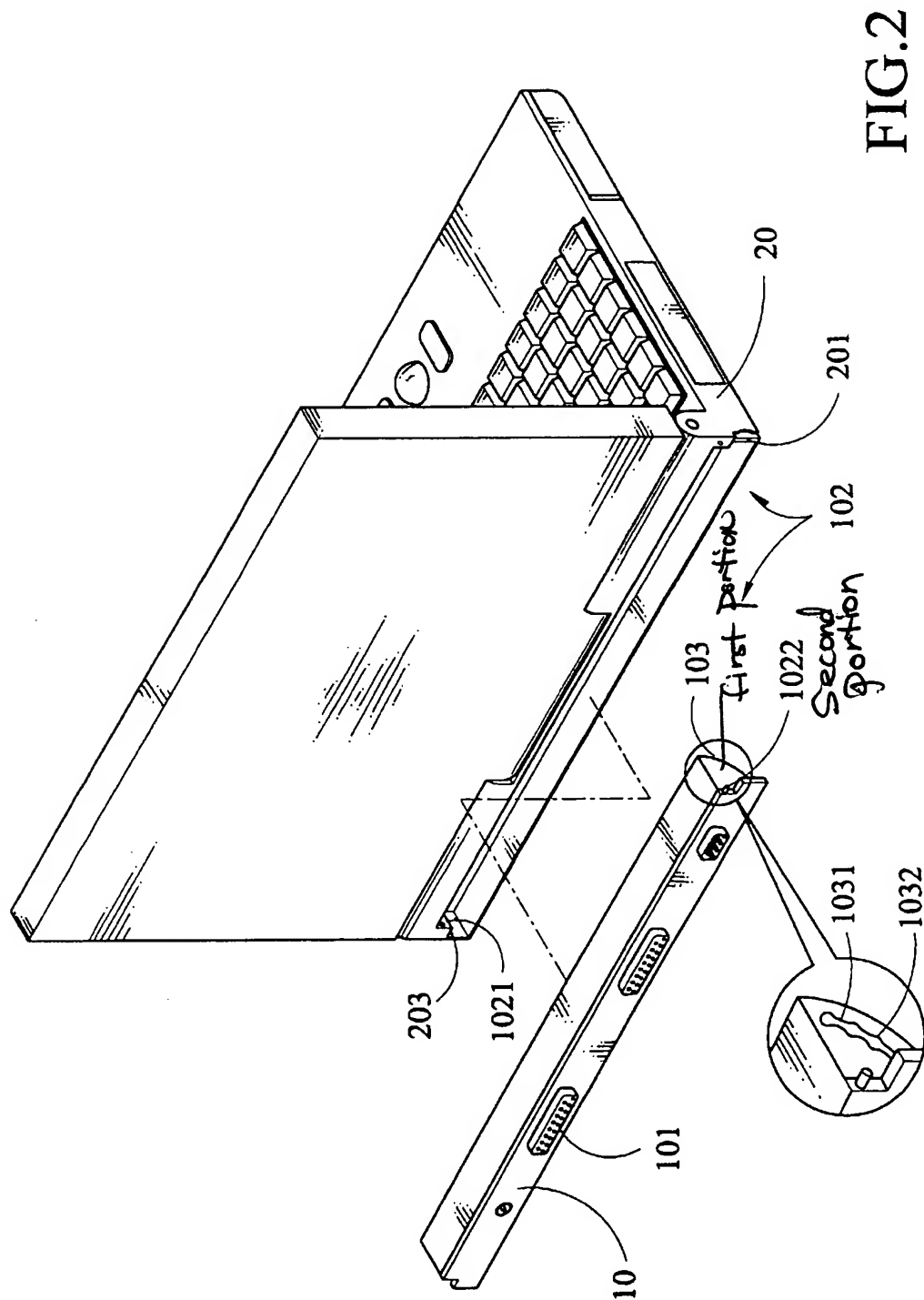


FIG. 6







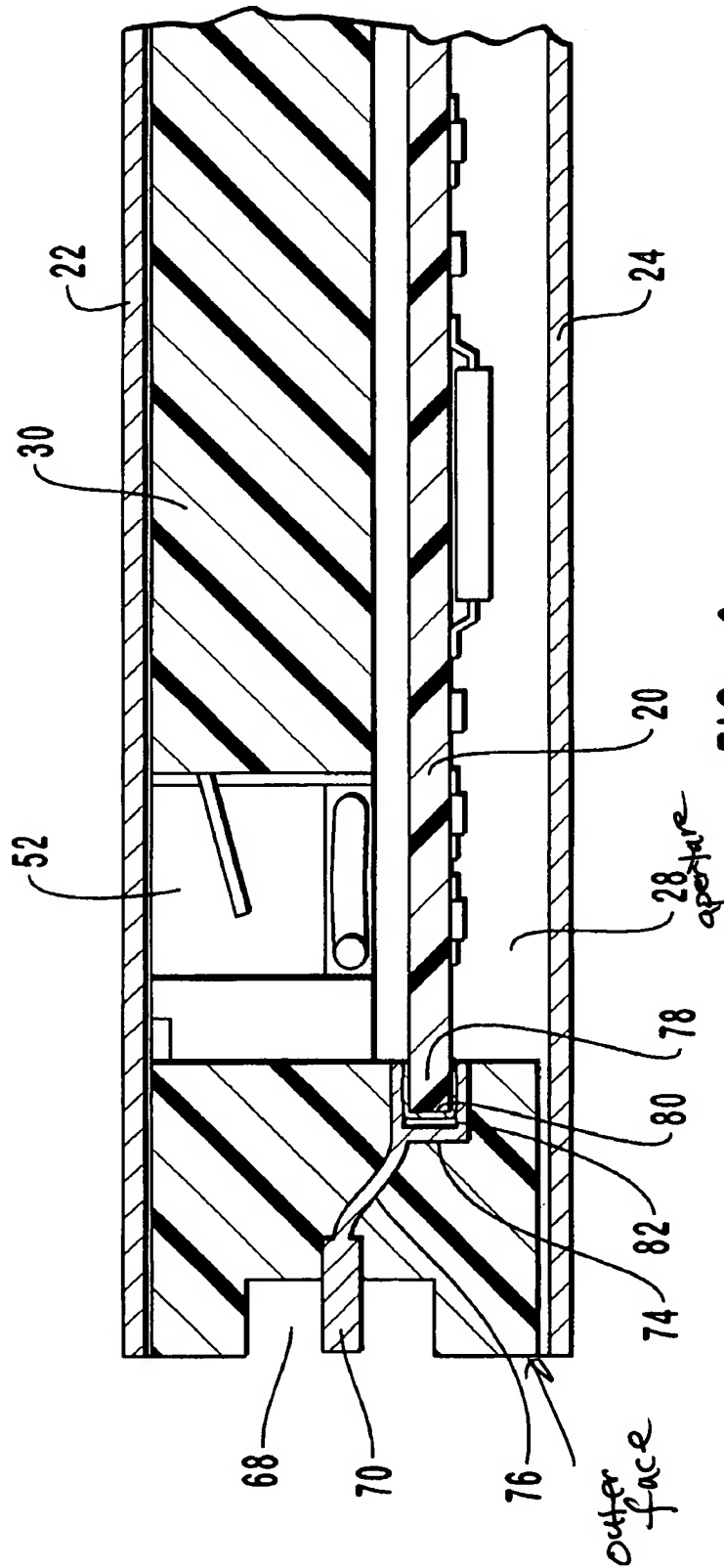


FIG. 6

retracted,  
position